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*March 18, 2012*

*General Assembly  
Committee on Judiciary*

*Re: Raised Bill No. 5509, An act concerning the payment of child support and Alimony*

*Dear esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,*

*I am providing written testimony in favor of Raised Bill No. 5509.*

*I have been divorced since 2004. Shortly after my divorce my ex wife began living with a love interest in my old home while I was paying child support and alimony. This co habitant was gainfully employed, shared all the usual home expenses with my ex wife and lived there not married while my minor son at the time resided there in a shared custody arrangement with me. Since my ex wife received enough alimony to live on so that she did not have to work she was encouraged to by the courts however that did not happen. I had to continue to pay the mortgage on the house with a slightly reduced alimony until the house was sold. This was painful given the co habitation.*

*I petitioned the court for consideration regarding the co habitation according to allowances per the statute as it currently is written. At that time I was also paying a large mortgage with mild alimony reduction as a result until the house sold. During the proceedings the Judge would not allow any information in discovery regarding the co habitant's financial contribution other than his admission that he was paying "rent". I was told that was his discretion to do without any further explanation. A hand written rental document signed by the boyfriend without any legal or notary seal affirming its honesty and accuracy was provided to the court. Co habitation was conceded and a judgment in my favor for a miniscule reduction occurred with no real allowance for this for all practical*

*purposes what was a committed relationship in every way other than a marriage certificate.*

*Our last child who suffers from a personality disorder and required at that time much in the way of psychiatric counseling services and a stable home came to live with me ending child support but not of course what it cost my new wife and I to house him, cloth him and feed him let alone our efforts to support his mental health needs. No allowance for this cost was allowed by the court.*

*In 2007 my ex wife moved to Arizona with her boyfriend, where she bought a house much larger than mine, has a swimming pool, continues not to work and live with her boyfriend who remains gainfully employed in the heating and cooling business. My son who failed a college attempt now requires to live with us, still with significant psychiatric needs not covered by my health insurance very well and costs much regarding time, money and stress to our household now as an adult with mental health issues. His step mother has continued to step up helping him in every way as much as she would her natural children. It is remarkable.*

*The current statute allows Judges great leeway in defining co habitation, allows them great leeway by lack of statutory guidance in deciding what to admit into evidence in discovery and is so vague in what can be done in situations like mine and many other men and women who pay alimony with an ex spouse that lives with a love interest , that it is extremely difficult for us to do anything about it.*

*In my first go around with a minor adjustment in my favor my wife's income was allowed to be brought into discovery and was discussed in the Judges memorandum of decision but in fact no consideration of the real contribution to my ex wife's household by her boyfriend was allowed. This perplexed me and continues to be a road block to many men and women like me who do not want to or cannot afford the many tens of thousands of dollars it cost to go back to court for a revision attempt with little hope for meaningful adjustments.*

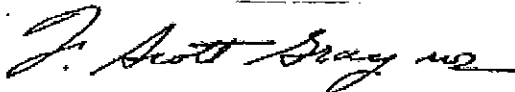
*For me, I continue to pay what in this bill would be categorized as full alimony...that is 30% of my income while my ex wife shares a household in another state with her boyfriend, labels their relationship on Facebook*

*as a "domestic partnership" flaunting her victory in my opinion. This is NOT FAIR to me and my current family needs and expenses.*

*The language proposed in this bill puts more teeth in the process regarding what Judges must consider, provides a more fair consideration process and allows for a more thorough and diligent evaluation of a co habitant's contribution. If an ex spouse can essentially be married except for the certificate I feel that it should not be the intent of the legislature or courts as a fairness concept. I have no problem paying alimony and in my case the amount settled upon. I have a problem with supporting a household where it is possible for me to essentially be supporting two people, not one and to an extent that makes a mockery of the extent that I have to work to provide alimony in the first place.*

*I hope the committee in its wisdom will understand the need for the proposed changes in order to provide more structure and guidance to this issue so that people like me will not be subjected to a "crap shoot" when trying to right this inequity.*

*Respectfully yours,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "F. Scott Gray".

*F. Scott Gray  
25 Olmstead Lane  
Ridgefield, CT 06877*

*Cc: Rep. John Frey  
Senator Toni Boucher*